

No BLUE & WHITE

The official magazine of the
South Melbourne Hellas Soccer Club Ltd.



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ROUND 31 - 1995/96 Ericsson Cup
SOUTH MELBOURNE v WEST ADELAIDE
Saturday 13th April 1996

BOB JANE STADIUM, MELBOURNE

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South Melbourne
Hellas Soccer Club

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EDITORIAL

Foundation of greater things

CANBERRA coach Mike Lyons made a comment on SBS's *On The Edge* last weekend that sometimes it seemed that his players didn't have the same passion for the game as the coaches; that there wasn't any real disappointment at losing.

The comments might well be true in Canberra where there are oceans of empty space on match days – but it certainly doesn't apply at the Bob Jane.

Here, passions run hot and the big and vocal crowds ignite the full range of passion in the players.

But sometimes that isn't enough; sometimes there has to be other things like skill and experience.

And the old saying keeps on coming home that 'you can't put an old head on young shoulders'.

There is no doubt that who ever first coined that saying was a soccer supporter.

This season the Blues had to wait until November to move 'home' when the Bob Jane Stadium was officially opened against West Adelaide.

Since then Frank Arok's young side has learned how to win at home very well.

So well, in fact, that since that first real home game South Melbourne has the second best home record in the Ericsson Cup.

If games were just played at home (think of the crowds then, Peter) the Blue & White Army would be on its way to another Grand Final.

Unfortunately there are away games as well – and this is where the big learning curve, or slide,

comes in.

The only way how to learn how to handle those long flights to Brisbane, or road trips to Morwell, or the hostility of playing in front of a Sydney crowd is to actually do it.

And not just once, but time and time again.

With that experience comes the little tricks of the trade, the little shimmies which allow a player to handle those travelling difficulties.

That doesn't make away matches easy, not by any means, but at least it gives the side a chance to go out there and get a result.

How to defend a winning lead for the last fifteen minutes, how not to give away goals in the opening ten, how to play consistently – these are all the unknown away factors.

Then, of course, there is the upset in a player's routine and it is a well known fact in the game that some players just don't travel well.

But with a season behind them this young South Melbourne side will be looking good for the future.

There is talent at the club, there are players who will go on to make their mark in the Ericsson Cup.

But what there isn't, is an awful lot of experience.

Next season, of course, will be different – we'll all be a year older and have twelve months more experience.

In the meantime there are still nine points to win in this season's Ericsson Cup, a season which may well be the foundation for greater things in the not too distant future.



Information and reservations

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SOUTH skipper Paul Trimball isn't the sort of player who dwells on the past; instead he has eyes firmly fixed on the future but also has a sharp awareness of the present.

And he also knows that football is full of ironies. "Everything has turned the full circle in twelve months," he said on the eve of the home match against West Adelaide. "This time last year South Melbourne had made the Top Six but I wasn't in the reckoning for a Socceroo spot.

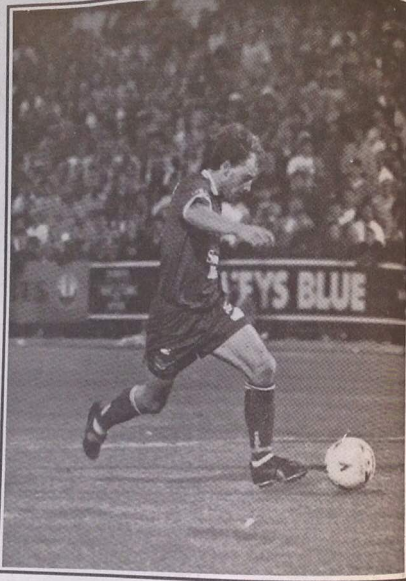
"Really, I hadn't played for two years and there had been plenty opportunity for me to play. But now that has changed - although South won't make the play offs this season."

For the South Melbourne skipper his personal rise in fortunes is tinged with the regret that South Melbourne hasn't made the big date. However, he tempers that with some realistic analysis.

"The young players have to be blooded," he says. They have to play and it is unfortunate that we have been without Micky Petersen and Vaughan Coveny - but then they still have to get games."

Trimball is also set to miss the seasonal finale with a call-up for the Socceroo for the controversial game against Chile.

"I don't know many details," he says, "but I've been told that only



A game of ironies



two Ericsson Cup players will be selected - me and Paul Wade."

That is certainly a big turnaround for the little ball player who has often found himself up at the sharp end for his club this season.

"I'm not a natural striker," he

says. Ivan Kelic was - and we haven't really replaced him. Even Vaughan Coveny likes to play a bit wider so it was strange for him to play as striker. But even with a bad season behind us our home crowd would have to be pretty happy

because we have always played well at the Bob Jane Stadium. It's really hard to put a finger on what went wrong this season. But football is a game of ironies."

It sure is.

Bruce Campbell

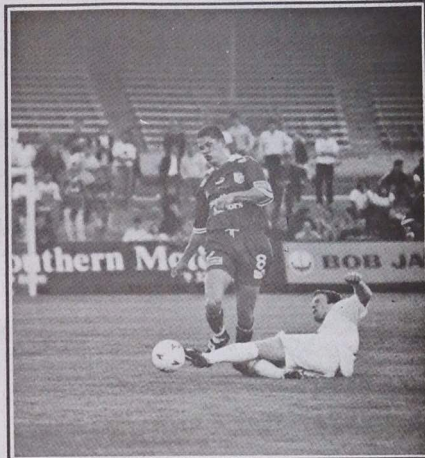
The good, the bad and the ugly

The good news is that Vaughan Coveny hasn't broken his ankle - but the bad news is that he is out for the rest of the season.

After the swelling on his foot had gone down Coveny was x rayed and it was discovered that his ankle bone was not broken.

However, he has torn the ligaments on the inside and outside of his foot which will see him take an enforced rest from the game.

The injury came as he rocketed a header against UTS Olympic and the Kiwi international also suffered the indignity of Olympic player Walter Ardone saving a certain goal by handling the ball on the line.



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WHERE DID HE come from?

That was the question which the senior players at the club were asking when Michael Curcija turned up at pre-season training.

And after finally getting his chance the young kid with the rough edges has gone from strength to strength.

"He is certainly one for the future," admits club captain, Paul Trimboli.

"I remember when he came to training for the first time and he was just banging away goals from everywhere.

"We just stood and said, 'where did he come from?'

"Michael still has some rough edges - but he more than has the ability to make it in the game.

"He could well end up being like Ivan Kelic, a natural goalscorer.

"Just look at the number of goals he has scored already, and he hasn't played that many games.

"He has that kind of instinct for goals and can just put them away.

"As I said, in the pre-season he was just phenomenal.

"When he gets those rough edges knocked off he could be some player."

That is a big boost for the young eighteen year old in his rookie season.

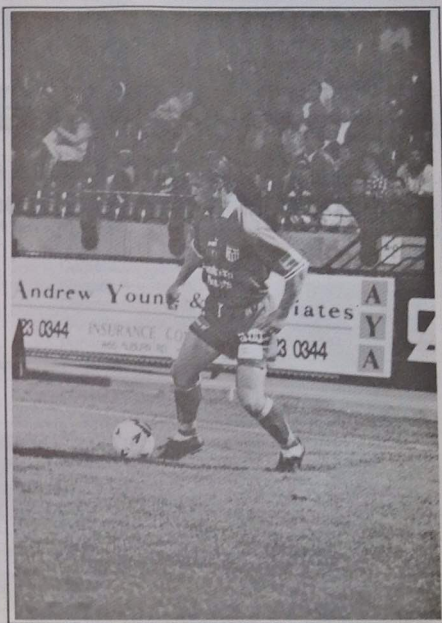
Trimboli's earlier point about young players needing to get games has certainly been borne out with Michael Curcija.

Frank Arok has tried a number of combinations up front and when the youngster finally got his chance he has taken it with both feet.

And he displays that rare arrogance in front of goal which would suggest that he certainly has the ability to fulfil his captain's confidence.

Now he can set his sights on further Ericsson Cup glory - and if he can continue his scoring exploits of recent weeks then Michael Curcija will certainly give the Blue & White Army something to cheer about.

Bruce Campbell



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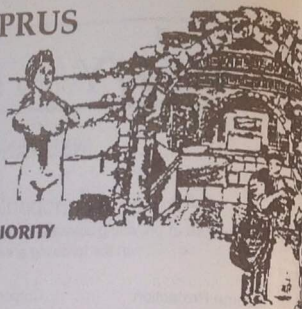
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BANK OF CYPRUS : A HUNDRED YEARS AHEAD

Match Details

ROUND 30: v Marconi Fairfield (away) 8 April
LOST: 0-3

ROUND 29: v UTS Olympic (home) 6 April
WON: 2-1

SCORERS: Panopoulos, Curcija

Att: 4,789
SM: Petkovic, Blatsis, Kuzmanovic, Anthopoulos (Nikolic 70), Panopoulos, Coveny (Curcija 15), Trimboli, Damianos, Knezevic (Sherifovski 59), Baser, Orlic
Referee: E Brazzale
Yellow Cards: Anthopoulos, Curcija

ROUND 28: v Sydney United (home) 31 March
LOST: 1-2

SCORER: Damianos

Att: 5,013
SM: Petkovic, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos (Damianos 65), Coveny, Trimboli, Petersen, Knezevic, Baser (Blatsis 65), Curcija, Muscat, Petkovic, Orlic
Referee: J Fraser
Yellow Cards: Muscat, Kuzmanovic

ROUND 27: v Wollongong City (away) 27 March
WON: 2-1

SCORERS: Panopoulos, Coveny

Att: 2,182
SM: Petkovic, Kuzmanovic, Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Petersen, Baser (Sherifovski 45), Curcija (Damianos 87), Muscat, Petkovic, Orlic
Referee: G Connolly
Yellow Card: Panopoulos

ROUND 26: v Canberra Cosmos (home) 24 March
WON: 3-2

SCORERS: Curcija, Coveny 2

Att: 4,169
SM: Petkovic, Kuzmanovic (Blatsis 46), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Petersen, Knezevic (Sherifovski 70), Baser, Curcija (Damianos 80), Muscat, Orlic

Referee: W Dade
Yellow Cards: Coveny, Muscat, Blatsis

ROUND 24: deferred match v Morwell (H) 20 Mar
WON: 3-2

SCORERS: Curcija, Coveny 2

Att: 4,873
SM: Petkovic, Muscat, Anthopoulos (Nikolic 81), Panopoulos, Coveny, Trimboli, Damianos (Curcija 46), Petersen, Knezevic, Baser, Alsopp (Sherifovski 46)
Referee: E Brazzale



Kevin Muscat - back at South Melbourne after a short stint in England

PHOTO: Tony Gavardinas



TOOHEYS BLUE



Hot Shots

ERICSSON CUP THE TOP MARKSMEN

29	Damien MORI (Adelaide City)
18	Kris TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic)
16	Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
14	Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)
13	Andy HARPER (Marconi Fairfield)
11	Frances AWARITEFE (Marconi-Fairfield)
11	Brad HASSELL (Adelaide City)
11	Paul WADE (Canberra Cosmos)
10	Pablo CARDOZO (West Adelaide)
10	Vaughan COVENY (South Melbourne)
9	Joe SPITERI (Melbourne Knights)
8	Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)

On The Card

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 29

Easter Saturday

Adelaide City v Brisbane Strikers
Canberra Cosmos v West Adelaide
South Melbourne v UTS Olympic
Morwell Falcons v Newcastle Breakers
Sydney United v Melbourne Knights
Wollongong City v Marconi Fairfield

the next
Ericsson Cup
Match
at the
Bob Jane Stadium

v
Newcastle Breakers
Sunday, 28 April 1996
KICK OFF 7.00pm

1995/96 SOUTH MELBOURNE STATS

Best Crowd:
13,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Best Home Crowd:
13,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Total Home Crowds:
96,129 (15 games)

Average Home Crowd:
6,408

95/96 Ericsson Cup Top Crowd:
13,956 South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9
*All figures are based on official ASF records and
not those reported in the press.

ERICSSON CUP PLAYER APPEARANCES

11	Alsopp
15	Anastasiadis
19	Anthopoulos
20	Baser
15	Blatsis
25	Coveny
11	Curcija
25	Damianos
07	Davidson
05	Duric
16	Kelic
12	Knezevic
25	Kuzmanovic
17	Lewis
02	Lilikakis
07	Mangos
09	Muscat
17	Nikolic
10	Orlic (plus 16 for Olympic)
24	Panopoulos
04	Papadopoulos
27	Petersen
12	Petkovic
19	Sherifovski
27	Trimboli



GOAL SCORERS:
10 Vaughan COVENY
07 Ivan KELIC
07 Paul TRIMBOLI
06 Steve PANOPOULOS
04 Bill DAMIANOS
04 Michael CURCIJA
02 Agim SHERIFOVSKI
01 Daniel ALSOPP
01 Con BLATSIS
01 Craig LEWIS
01 Steve MANGOS
01 Nick ORLIC

CORRECT
AS AT ROUND 28

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SOUTH MELBOURNE v WEST ADELAIDE

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- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Con Blatsis
- 3 Steve Mangos
- 4 Alek Kuzmanovic
- 5 Mike Valkanis
- 6 Con Anthopoulos
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveney
- 9 Paul Trimboli (C)
- 10
- 11 Agim Sherifovski
- 12 Bill Damianos
- 13 Craig Lewis
- 14 Michael Petersen
- 15 Jean—Paul Knezevic
- 16 Tansell Baser
- 17 Sasa Nikolic
- 18 Michael Curcija
- 19 Daniel Alsopp
- 20
- 21
- 22 Kevin Muscat
- 23 Michael Petkovic
- 24 Nick Orlie
- 25
- 26 George Tsianakas
- 27

COACH:
Frank Arkoc



CURRENT FORM:

The big difference between the two sides is West Adelaide's ability to win away games. This year the Sharks have the best away record in the league and sit in the Top Six as a result.

On the other hand South Melbourne have had to learn to adjust to life without the services of top strikers Ivan Kelic (Singapore) and Vaughan Coveney (injured).

Everything points to a draw, a result which would probably suit the Sharks fine. But games aren't played on paper and I expect South Melbourne's hopes for the Top Six to still be alive at 9.00pm.

PREDICTION:

South Melbourne to win by the odd goal.

SHARKS SQUAD

- Peter Blazincic 1
- Richie Alagich 2
- Con Kokkinoplitis 3
- Robert Slager 4
- Robbie Hooker 5
- Frank Tibaldi 6
- Jose Iriarte 7
- Pablo Cardozo 8
- Ross Aloisi 9
- Branko Milosavic 10
- C Ndonga—Keller 11
- Jim Keramidas 12
- Scott Morrison 13
- George Haniotis 14
- Mark Brazzale 15
- Atthan Lekkas 16
- Jim Tsekenis 17
- Reshat Mezenoff 18
- Ayrton Andrioli 19
- 20

- Nathan Day 21
- Hamilton Thorpe 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27

COACH:
Raul Blanco

LAST SIX LEAGUE HOME GAMES

- v UTS Olympic (6.4.96) WON 2-1
- v Sydney United (31.3.96) LOST 1-2
- v Canberra Cosmos (24.3.96) WON 3-2
- v Morwell Falcons (20.3.96) WON 3-2
- v Brisbane Strikers (25.2.96) DREW 0-0
- v Marconi (11.12.96) LOST 1-4

LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

- v Canberra Cosmos (6.4.96) WON 1-0
- v Morwell Falcons (27.3.96) DREW 1-1
- v Newcastle Breakers (15.3.96) WON 4-0
- v Sydney United (10.3.96) WON 2-3
- v UTS Olympic (25.2.96) LOST 2-3
- v Adelaide City (7.1.96) WON 2-0

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 28
Friday 27 March
NEWCASTLE 1
Bennett 8

Att: 3,178
Ref: C Diomisi

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 4
Marth 18
Kutlesovski 27, 54
own goal 74

Saturday 28 March
BRISBANE STRIKERS 6
Brown 7, 68
Farina 17, 24
Polak 37
Battistin 41

MORWELL FALCONS 1
Spink 59

Att: 8,516
Ref: G Connolly

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 2
Harper 17
Zoric 59
Att: 4,016
Ref: D Crawford

CANBERRA COSMOS 2
Koch 69
Musitano 78

Sunday 29 March
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1
Damianos 59
Att: 5,013
Ref: J Fraser

SYDNEY UNITED 2
Lamond 3
S Babic 85

UTS OLYMPIC 1
Tome 66
Att: 5,176
Ref: B Hugo

WOLLONGONG CITY 0

ROUND 29
Saturday 6 April
WOLLONGONG CITY 0
Att: 3,039
Ref: J Papanicolas

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 0

MORWELL FALCONS 1
E Masi 73
Att: 1,267
Ref: J Fraser

NEWCASTLE 0

CANBERRA COSMOS 0
Att: 2,176
Ref: B Hugo

WEST ADELAIDE 1
Keramidas 56

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
Panopoulos 12
Curcija 72
Att: 4,789
Ref: E Brazzale

UTS OLYMPIC 1
Taliadros 14

SYDNEY UNITED 2
Milicic 17
Moric 37

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 4
D Cervinski 9
Kutlesovski 55
Marth 85

Ericsson Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marconi Fairfield	30	16	8	6	54	31	56
Melbourne Knights	30	15	8	7	43	22	53
UTS Olympic	30	15	8	7	49	36	53
Brisbane Strikers	30	15	6	9	50	33	51
Adelaide City	30	14	8	8	59	37	50
West Adelaide	30	15	5	10	44	37	50
Sydney United	30	12	11	7	41	30	47
South Melbourne	30	12	4	14	46	53	40
Morwell Falcons	30	9	7	14	34	61	34
Canberra Cosmos	30	6	11	13	44	56	29
Wollongong City	30	4	5	21	28	60	17
Newcastle Breakers	30	4	5	21	35	71	17

* 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

Att: 4,918
Ref: S Micallef

T Pondejak 87

ADELAIDE CITY 0
Att: 2,615

BRISBANE STRIKERS 0
Ref: E Lennie

ROUND 30
Monday April 8
NEWCASTLE 2
Thomas 15
Sanderson 82
Att: 2,766
Ref: D Crawford

ADELAIDE CITY 4
Lozanovski 52
Moric 62
Hassell 79
own goal 73

BRISBANE STRIKERS 2
Polak 62
T Cranney 80

CANBERRA COSMOS 0
Att: 3,953
Ref: M Shield

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 3
Bingley 36
Renaud 38
Harper 66

SOUTH MELBOURNE 0
Att: 4,371
Ref: C Diomisi

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 5
Marth 29, 37
Spiteri 74, 89
Vojtek 85

MORWELL FALCONS 1
Tapai 88
Att: 3,640
Ref: J Papanicolas

WOLLONGONG CITY 2
Jarmen 11 pen
Cecoli 15
Att: 2,422

WEST ADELAIDE 3
Cardozo 29, 86
Tsekenis 33
Ref: S Micallef

UTS OLYMPIC 1
Taliadros 87

SYDNEY UNITED 0
Att: 8,672
Ref: B Hugo

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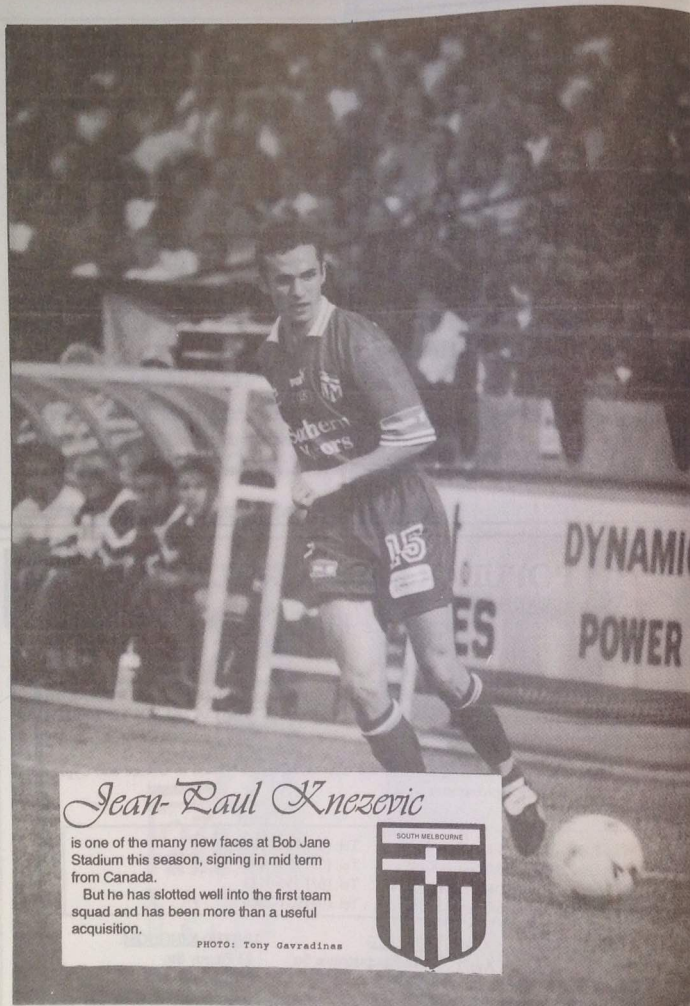
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Jean-Paul Knezevic

is one of the many new faces at Bob Jane Stadium this season, signing in mid term from Canada.

But he has slotted well into the first team squad and has been more than a useful acquisition.

PHOTO: Tony Gavradines



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ERICSSON CUP - FIRST PHASE

A v Melbourne Knights (8.10.95) LOST 0-1
 A v Morwell Falcons (13.10.95) WON 1-0
 A v Adelaide City (18.10.95) WON 2-1
 H v Canberra Cosmos (22.10.95) DREW 2-2
 A v Wollongong City (27.10.95) LOST 0-2
 H v Sydney United (5.11.95) LOST 0-2
 A v UTS Olympic (12.11.95) LOST 2-4
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (18.11.95) LOST 1-3
 H v West Adelaide (26.11.95) LOST 2-3
 A v Brisbane Strikers (2.12.95) LOST 0-3
 H v Newcastle Breakers (6.12.95) WON 3-1



ERICSSON CUP - SECOND PHASE

H v Melbourne Knights (10.12.95) WON 1-0
 H v Morwell Falcons (17.12.95) DREW 2-2
 H v Adelaide City (23.12.95) WON 2-0
 A v Canberra Cosmos (26.12.95) LOST 1-3
 H v Wollongong City (29.12.95) WON 6-0
 A v Sydney United (7.01.96) LOST 1-4
 H v UTS Olympic (4.02.96) WON 2-1
 H v Marconi-Fairfield (11.02.96) LOST 1-4
 A v West Adelaide (18.02.96) WON 2-0
 H v Brisbane Strikers (25.02.96) DREW 0-0
 A v Newcastle Breakers (1.03.96) LOST 2-4

ERICSSON CUP - THIRD PHASE

A v Melbourne Knights (10.03.96) DREW 1-1
 A v Adelaide City (17.03.96) LOST 1-2
 H v Morwell Falcons (20.03.96) WON 3-2
 H v Canberra Cosmos (24.03.96) WON 3-2
 A v Wollongong City (27.03.96) WON 2-1
 H v Sydney United (31.03.96) LOST 1-2
 A v UTS Olympic (6.04.96) WON 2-1
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (8.04.96) LOST 0-3
 H v West Adelaide (14.04.96)
 A v Brisbane Strikers (20.04.96)
 H v Newcastle Breakers (28.04.96)

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Fuller details on the event will be available in shortly but the event has the endorsement of RALE RASIC who piloted Australia to their one and only World Cup finals in 1974.

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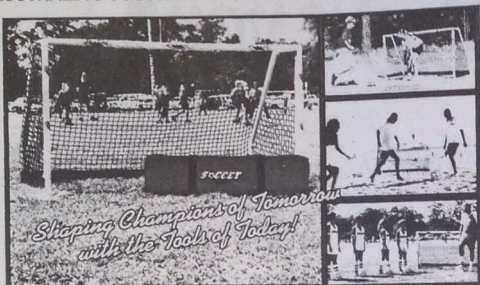
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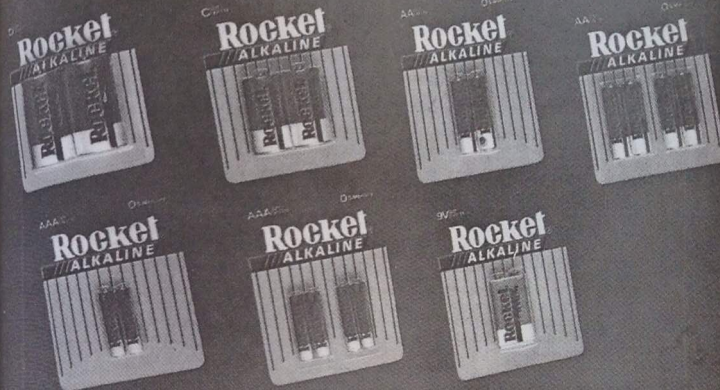


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